Acknowledgment of Government Rights

This invention was made with Government support under grant number DK43805-01A2 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The Government has certain rights in this invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 and add new claims 9-18 as follows.

New claim ~~9~~ 1. An *in vitro* method of determining whether or not an individual has metastasized colorectal cancer comprising the steps of examining a sample of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual to determine whether ST receptor protein is present in said sample, wherein the presence of ST receptor protein in said sample indicates that said individual has metastasized colorectal cancer.

New claim ~~10~~ 2. The method of claim ~~9~~ 1 wherein said ST receptor protein is detected by immunoassay wherein said sample is contacted with detectable antibodies that specifically bind to ST receptor protein.

New claim ~~11~~ 3. The method of claim ~~10~~ 2 wherein said immunoassay comprises the steps of:

contacting the sample to antibodies that specifically bind to ST receptor protein, wherein ST receptor protein in said sample will bind to said immobilized antibodies,

contacting the said cells is determined by ST receptor binding assay wherein said tissue sample is contacted with labeled ST receptor ligand.

New claim 12. The method of claim 9 wherein said sample is body fluid.

New claim 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said sample is blood.

New claim 14. An *in vitro* assay kit for determining whether or not an individual has metastasized colorectal cancer by detecting the presence of ST receptor protein in a sample of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual, the presence of said ST receptor protein is present in said sample, wherein the presence of ST receptor protein in said sample indicates that individual has metastasized colorectal cancer, said kit comprising:

a container comprising antibodies specific for ST receptor protein;

instruction for using said kit.

New claim 15. The kit of claim 14 further comprising a container that comprises a positive control; wherein said positive control is a sample containing ST receptor protein.

New claim 16. The kit of claim 15 further comprising a container that comprises negative control; wherein said negative control is a sample free of ST receptor protein.

New claim 17. The kit of claim 14 further comprising a container that comprises a negative control, wherein said negative control is a sample free of ST receptor protein.

New claim 18. The kit of claim 14 further comprising a container that comprises a detectable antibody that binds to said antibodies specific for ST receptor protein.

New claim 19. An *in vitro* PCR assay kit for determining whether or not an individual has colorectal cancer by detecting the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in a sample of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual, the presence of said ST receptor protein is present in said sample, wherein the presence of said mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in said sample indicates that individual has colorectal cancer, said kit comprising:

a first container comprising PCR primers that specifically amplify mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein;

a second container comprising a size marker, said size marker being the expected size of amplified DNA if said mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein is present in said sample; and

instructions for using said kit.